GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:272
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
N.S.S.O. SURVEY ON POVERTY .
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the number of poor in the country has crossed 28 crores and 56 lakhs as per the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (N.S.S.O);

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) Whether the Government has any plan to reduce poverty in the country;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the Expert Group Methodology (Lakdawala Committee on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor). The latest available data from such survey is from NSS 55th Round, which was conducted in 1999-2000. According to the estimates based on the above survey, 26.02 crores of population were living below the poverty line in the country during 1999-2000. The State-wise number of persons living below the poverty line using data from the above quinquennial round of National Sample survey Organization is given in the Annexure −1.

(c) & (d) : Under the monitorable targets for the Tenth Plan period and beyond, the Government projected to reduce poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007 and 15 percentage points by 2012. The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty:

(i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive;

(ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and

(iii) targeted anti- poverty programmes.

In rural areas, the programmes which are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for upliftment of BPL families are
(i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY),
(ii) Swaranjayati Gram Swarozar Yojana (SGSY),
(iii) Indira Awas Yojana(IAY), and
(iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The poverty alleviation programme which is being implemented in urban areas is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage Employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public assets. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission

(JNNURM) is being implemented in selected 63 Mission Cities. Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) is applicable to all cities and towns as per the 2001 Census except 63 Mission Cities. The basic objective of IHSDP is to strive for holistic slum development with a healthy and enabling urban environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to slum dwellers. In addition of the above, the Public Distribution System in India has been more focused and targeted towards the very poor category. The `Antyodaya Anna Yojana` provides 35 kgs of food grains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg., for rice. Recently, the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been expanded from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005. The State Governments have been advised to give priority to the households from the poorest and the backward blocks and/or where nutritional deficiency is more widespread, while identifying the beneficiaries.

(e) : Does not arise.